Media release
Back Block Bards donates $30,000 for Dementia Research

The first two months of a fundraising campaign by a group from country NSW has lead to $30,000 being donated for research into early onset dementia.

The six-month long campaign by members of the Vagg and Parker families from the Hillston/Ivanhoe district involves sales of a book of poetry, artwork and a quilt all produced by the family members.

Work on *Back Block Bards - A Collection of Bush Verse by Bush Bards* started on New Year's Day this year and culminated in the launch of the book in Hillston on 13 October. The launch also included an exhibition of artwork and a quilt created by renowned local artist Joan Vagg.

So successful was the event that it's been nominated as "Event of the Year" in the Carrathool Shire, the winner to be announced on Australia Day 2019.

The funds raised so far have come from book sales and from an auction of the first book and Mrs Vagg's quilt at the launch, as well as the sale of art work exhibited on the night. Donations also added to the fund.

One of the authors of the collection, Graham Vagg of Ivanhoe, said he hoped the contribution to dementia research by *Back Block Bards* would help in soon finding a cure or treatment for dementia.

"The community support for both the launch and ongoing sales of the book has been wonderful", Mr Vagg said.

"Further fundraising activities will continue until 30 April 2019. As well as providing funding for Dementia Australia Research Foundation the book will also be a wonderful Christmas present."

Mrs Vagg is accepting additional commissions for paintings with the proceeds to be donated to the campaign. She already has four. Interested parties should email BackBlockBards@mail.com. Mrs Vagg's painting can be viewed at backblockbards.org.au. Books can be ordered there as well.

Joan Vagg, Kylie Jackson (Bendigo Bank) and Allan Vagg (all of Hillston) depositing $30,000

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